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--This application is a Continuation of Application Serial No. 09/747,748, filed 12/22/2000, entitled: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A CRYPTOGRAPHICALLY ASSISTED COMMERCIAL NETWORK SYSTEM DESIGNED TO FACILITATE IDEA SUBMISSION, PURCHASE AND LICENSING AND INNOVATION TRANSFER, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application 60/173,170, filed December 27, 1999, which is incorporated by reference along with all other references cited in this application.--

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original Claims 1-25 as follows:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
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20. (cancelled)
21. (cancelled)
22. (cancelled)
23. (cancelled)
24. (cancelled)
25. (cancelled)

Please add the following new claims.

26.(new): A method for using a computer to facilitate and control sequential access to a two-level information database created by inputs supplied by originators, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving and storing in the database a plurality of two-part descriptions each supplied by an originator, each two-part description including a non-confidential first-level element in the form of a searchable and accessible basic description of each originator's proposal, and a confidential second-level element in the form of a searchable, but non-accessible detailed description of each originator's proposal;

(b) permitting users to access, search, review and select without restriction, only the non-confidential first-level elements of the stored two-part descriptions;

(c) subsequently providing selecting users with an option to access, search and review the confidential second-level elements of the stored two-part descriptions that correspond to the selected first-level elements by electronically submitting to each selecting user a license agreement including a confidentiality provision and other previously supplied licensing terms;

(d) receiving and storing in the computer an acceptance of the license agreement by each selecting user; and

(e) upon receipt of license acceptance, providing accepting users with unrestricted access on a confidential basis via the computer to the confidential second-level elements of the stored two-part descriptions corresponding to the selected first-level elements.

27.(new): The method of Claim 26 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license, and including the further step of upon receiving license acceptance by one selecting user, subsequently restricting other users from accessing, searching, reviewing or selecting both the first-level element and the second-

level element of the two-part description selected by the licensed user for the duration of the term of the exclusive license.

28.(new): The method of Claim 26 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license, and including the further step of providing an originator with the option of specifying license terms which permit users to continue to access, search, review and select the non-confidential first-level element, but not the confidential second-level element, of a selected two-part description for the duration of the license term.

29.(new): The method of Claim 28 including the further step of creating a queue of license accepting users seeking access to the selected, but license restricted second-level element.

30.(new): The method of Claim 29 including the further step of establishing a priority status for each user in the queue according to the time of license acceptance, with an earlier license acceptance time having priority over a later license acceptance time.

31.(new): The method of Claim 28 including the further step of permitting users to search and rank by relevancy without restriction the second-level elements of the database without permitting visual access to the second-level elements.

32. (new): The method of Claim 26 including the further step of enabling each originator to review the identity of each license requesting user and to either accept or reject the license request by each user.

33. (new): A method for using a computer to facilitate and control sequential access to a two-level information database created by inputs supplied by users, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving and storing in the database a plurality of two-part descriptions each supplied by a user, each two-part description including a non-confidential first-level element in the form of a searchable and accessible basic description of a user's unmet need or unsolved problem, and a confidential second-level element in the form of a searchable, but non-accessible detailed description of each user's unmet need or unsolved problem;

(b) permitting originators to access, search, review and select without restriction, only the non-confidential first-level elements of the stored two-part descriptions;

(c) subsequently providing selecting originators with an option to access, search and review the confidential second-level elements of the stored two-part descriptions that correspond to the selected first-level elements by electronically submitting to each selecting originator a

license agreement including a confidentiality provision and other previously supplied licensing terms;

(d) receiving and storing in the computer an acceptance of the license agreement by each selecting originator; and

(e) upon receipt of license acceptance, providing accepting originators with unrestricted access on a confidential basis via the computer to the confidential second-level elements of the stored two-part descriptions corresponding to the selected first-level elements.

34.(new): The method of Claim 33 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license, and including the further step of upon receiving license acceptance by one selecting originator, subsequently restricting other originators from accessing, searching, reviewing or selecting both the first-level element and the second-level element of the two-part description selected by the licensed originator for the duration of the term of the exclusive license.

35.(new): The method of Claim 33 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license, and including the further step of providing a user with the option of specifying license terms which permit originators to continue to access, search, review and select the non-confidential first-level element,

but not the confidential second-level element, of a selected two-part description for the duration of the license term.

36.(new): The method of Claim 35 including the further step of creating a queue of license accepting originator seeking access to the selected, but license restricted second-level element.

37.(new): The method of Claim 36 including the further step of establishing a priority status for each originator in the queue according to the time of license acceptance, with an earlier license acceptance time having priority over a later license acceptance time.

38.(new): The method of Claim 35 including the further step of permitting originators to search and rank by relevancy without restriction the second-level elements of the database without permitting visual access to the second-level elements.

39.(new): The method of Claim 33 including the further step of enabling each user to review the identity of each license requesting originator and to either accept or reject the license request by each originator.